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FOR INFORMATION

STATUS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE MULTI-DONOR EVALUATION OF UNICEF

1. In its decision 1994/A/8 (E/ICEF/1994/13 (Part III)), the Executive Board requested that the Executive Director:

(a) Develop a general strategy document on capacity-building, empowerment, service delivery and advocacy; improved programme designs for all UNICEF priority sectors, taking into account all three strategy elements; and a strategy paper on emergency assistance based on all three strategy elements and taking into account the role of UNICEF within the United Nations system and the need to strengthen linkages between UNICEF emergency work and its development goals;

(b) Present a status report on the subjects mentioned above to the Board at its September 1994 session 1/ and a full report on these subjects to the Board at its first regular session of 1995;

(c) Present to the Board at the appropriate session in 1995 one or more example(s) of country programme(s) incorporating all applicable issues outlined in the resolution;

(d) Report to the Board, as an integral part of the response to the requests mentioned above, as to which operational strategies and concrete measures the secretariat intends to introduce to adjust UNICEF's own organizational capacity (sect. A, para. 5 (a)-(d)).

2. The present document was prepared in response to paragraph 1 (b) above. As requested in paragraph 1 (a) above, a general strategy document on capacity-building, service delivery, empowerment and advocacy is currently under preparation and will be presented to the Executive Board at its first regular session in 1995. The document will review the strategies developed by UNICEF over the past years and presented to the Executive Board in various policy

documents, and, as requested in paragraph 1 (d) above, describe how UNICEF intends to apply those specific strategies in all its programmes in the future and discuss which operational strategies and concrete measures the secretariat intends to introduce to adjust UNICEF's own organizational capacity.

3. Furthermore, as requested in paragraph 1 (a) above, UNICEF will report on the way it intends to strengthen and improve further programme designs in different priority sectors through sector-specific policy documents. It should be noted that, in 1990, a policy review was presented to the Board on the strategy for improved nutrition of children and women in developing countries (E/ICEF/1990/L.6), which set out a conceptual framework based on the "triple A approach" (assessment, analysis and action) to achieve the nutrition goals for the 1990s. The recommendations in the report were endorsed by Executive Board decision 1990/19 (E/ICEF/1990/13). In addition, a policy paper on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (E/ICEF/1994/L.5) was presented to the Executive Board at its annual session in 1994. That document presents a conceptual framework, the Women's Equality and Empowerment Framework, 2/ adapted by UNICEF as a dynamic tool for furthering women's empowerment in UNICEF interventions. The report also reviewed the programmes for women and girls, focusing both on mainstreaming as a strategy of intervention and on women-centred activities.

4. Moreover, in response to the Board's request, policy documents on education and on water and environmental sanitation will be presented to the Executive Board at its annual session in 1995. A policy paper on UNICEF policy and strategies for health (E/ICEF/1994/L.6) is being presented to the Executive Board at the present session. Finally, a policy paper on children in especially difficult circumstances will be presented to the Executive Board at its annual session in 1996.

5. As requested in paragraph 1 (a) above, a strategy paper on UNICEF emergency assistance, based on all three strategy elements and taking into account the role of UNICEF within the United Nations system, in particular, identifying the comparative advantage of UNICEF in emergency interventions, is currently under preparation. The paper will describe how UNICEF intends to strengthen further the linkages between UNICEF emergency work and its development goals and strategies in a conceptual framework. This report will be presented to the Executive Board at its first regular session in 1995.

6. Finally, the request under paragraph 1 (c) above is currently being taken into account in the preparation of new country programme recommendations for submission to the Executive Board at its second regular session in 1995. At least one major country programme recommendation which will have incorporated all of the applicable issues outlined in decision 1994/A/8, as specified in paragraph 1 above, will be submitted for approval. In particular, the recommendation will describe the strategic choices made and how programme designs were improved in priority sectors, taking into account these strategy elements.

Notes

1/ Originally scheduled for September, the third regular session of the Executive Board was rescheduled for 3-5 October 1994.

2/ Sara H. Longwe, 1991 "Gender Awareness: the Missing Element in the Third World Development Project", Changing Perceptions: Writings on Gender and Development (Oxford: Oxfam), 1991.